



**We Will Remember Them**

**The Men on East Hanningfield's War Memorial**

## **Foreword** by Rev'd Susan Iskander, Priest-in-Charge, All Saints' Church

On Sunday 12 June 1921 the villagers of East Hanningfield gathered together outside All Saints' Church. They had assembled to dedicate to God the war memorial to the 19 men who lived in, or were connected with, the parish and who had given their lives during the Great War of 1914 to 1918. These men would have been known personally to those standing in the churchyard on that day.

Since then, on every Remembrance Sunday each November, people gather at the war memorial at All Saints' and the names on the memorial are read out. Following the Second World War, three more names were added. However as time has gone on the memories of all those men have faded and, in recent years, they have been just names.

The 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the start of the Great War, seemed an appropriate time to see what could be discovered about the men behind the names. That war was probably the deadliest in human history. Worldwide 16 million people died and 20 million were wounded. In Great Britain alone approximately 887,000 military personnel and 109,000 civilians lost their lives. We find it hard to imagine losses on such a scale, but by looking at the stories of the individuals from our village perhaps we can begin to visualise the impact of the war on families and communities.

As we honour the memory of those who gave their lives, let us pray that no more names, of men or women, are added to our memorial in future and commit ourselves to work for peace in our community, country and world.

## **Compiler's comments**

I would like to thank the following for their help and assistance in providing material and making comments on the draft of this booklet: Geoff Dickman, Paul Evans (Royal Artillery Museum), Gil and Stan Gordon, Ian Hook (Essex Regiment Museum), Karen Plumridge, Derek Saffell, Richard Seymour and Nick Tricker. My thanks also to Rosie Bartley-Crozier for her help in editing and preparing the booklet for printing.

Much of the information has come from material available on the internet. As new records come on line almost daily, it is almost inevitable that more will come to light about the men on our memorial in due course. Any reader who has more to add is invited to contact me at [sue.edward@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:sue.edward@yahoo.co.uk)

August 2014

## **WORLD WAR I (The Great War)**

### **Edward Bambridge**

Edward Bambridge was born in 1894 at Lindsell, a village to the north of Great Dunmow in Essex. He was the second son of Edward and Mary Ann Bambridge. The 1911 Census shows him living with his family at Lodge Cottages, East Hanningfield (probably in Old Church Road) with his parents, four brothers and two sisters. At the time he was employed as a stockman on a farm. It looks as if the Bambridge family had only recently moved to East Hanningfield, as Edward's youngest brother, who was aged one at the time of the Census, had been born in Little Totham.

Edward enlisted as a Private with the 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Essex Regiment on 30 August 1914 and arrived in France on 30 May 1915. He saw nearly three years of active service but was invalided out of the army on 20 February 1918 and transferred back to the UK. His discharge papers describe him as 5 feet 2 inches tall with light brown hair and hazel eyes, with his Commanding Officer describing him as a 'thoroughly honest soldier, reliable and industrious'.

Edward died of tuberculosis and cardiac failure on 5 April 1918 at an isolation hospital near Romford. Prolonged exposure to conditions in the trenches, where disease and epidemics were common would have contributed to his death.

Edward is buried in the Felsted Congregational Church Cemetery (his parents had moved to Hartford End by the end of WW1) and he is also commemorated on the Felsted War Memorial.

Edward was awarded the 1914/15 Star and the British War and Allied Victory Medals.

#### Sources:

*1911 Census*

*Essex Regiment Museum*

*FindMyPast – proceedings on discharge*

## **Herbert William Bambridge**

Herbert Bambridge was born in 1896 at Lindsell, a village to the north of Great Dunmow in Essex and was the younger brother of Edward Bambridge. He was the third son of Edward and Mary Ann Bambridge. The 1911 Census shows him living with his family at Lodge Cottages, East Hanningfield (probably in Old Church Road) with his parents, four brothers and two sisters. At the time he was employed as a general labourer on a farm. It looks as if the Bambridge family had only recently moved to East Hanningfield, as Edward's youngest brother who was aged one at the time of the Census had been born in Little Totham.

Herbert enlisted in Chelmsford with the 1/5<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Essex Regiment (No. 251287) as a Private. He was serving as part of the Egyptian Expeditionary Force when, on Friday 4 May 1917, the Essex Chronicle recorded his name with those reported wounded and missing in action following the first Battle of Gaza. This was part of an attempt by the Allied armies to invade southern Palestine, then part of the Ottoman Empire, to secure the Suez Canal and trade routes with India.

The date of Herbert's death was eventually given as 27 March 1917. He was 21 years old.

Herbert is commemorated on the Jerusalem Memorial (Panels 33 to 39) and the Felsted War Memorial (his parents had moved to Hartford End by the end of WW1). He is also named on his brother Edward's private grave stone in the Felsted Congregational Church cemetery.

Herbert was awarded the British War and Allied Victory Medals.

### Sources:

*1911 Census*

*Chelmsford Chronicle 4 May 1917*

*Commonwealth War Graves Commission*

*Essex Regiment Museum*

## Gerald Horace Barclay

Gerald Barclay was born in Bristol in 1892. He was the second son of Eric and Jessie Barclay who by 1911 were living at Highfields, East Hanningfield (presumably now Highfields Farm House). In the 1911 Census Eric Barclay describes himself as a 'retired Canadian farmer'. Gerald had an elder brother and two younger sisters.

At the time of the 1911 Census Gerald was a visitor at the home of Rev'd Herbert Wilmott and his family at the Rectory in Rivenhall, Essex. The Barclay family had lived in Rivenhall prior to moving to East Hanningfield and, as the rector had 3 sons all about Gerald's age, it is likely he was visiting his old friends. He was a law clerk employed by CA Copland and Sons, solicitors of Chelmsford.



Gerald enlisted at Chelmsford and, in early 1915 was Acting Lance Corporal (no. 186) in the Essex Fortress Company, Corps of Royal Engineers and based at Harwich and Landguard. On Sunday 21 February after a few days' illness he died of meningitis in Oaklands Military Hospital in Harwich aged 23.

Gerald was buried in East Hanningfield churchyard with full military honours on Wednesday 24 February. The Rev'd Arthur Sacré, the rector of East Hanningfield, led the service together with Rev'd Wilmott, whose family Gerald had stayed with in 1911.

The Chelmsford Chronicle reported on the funeral on 26 February 1915, describing Gerald as 'a high-minded and popular young fellow, both with civilian and military friends, who acted as sidesman at East Hanningfield Church where his father is a churchwarden. He was a member of the local cricket club and of the Chelmsford Park Lawn Tennis club. He is the first victim of the war at East Hanningfield'.

Gerald's grave may be seen in East Hanningfield churchyard (plot no. 94).

### Sources:

*1911 Census*

*Chelmsford Chronicle 26 February 1915*

## Edward Cox

Edward Cox was the second son of James Cox, who was born in Rettendon, and his wife Susannah who came from East Hanningfield. In the 1891 Census James is shown as an agricultural labourer living with his family in Church Road, East Hanningfield (now Old Church Road). Edward had 3 brothers and 7 sisters.

Edward was born in 1882 in East Hanningfield. By 1901 he had left home and was living in West Ham and working as an insurance agent. Later that year on 1<sup>st</sup> August he married Minnie Johnson.

By 1911 Edward and Minnie were living in Bow, London and had four children, two boys and two girls aged between 1 and 7. Edward had also changed jobs and was working for the London County Council Parks' Department as an under-keeper.

Edward joined the Royal Field Artillery in 1915 (Service no. L/21224) and was a Gunner in 'A' Battery of the 103<sup>rd</sup> Brigade. He took part in the third battle of Ypres, also known as Passchendaele, which took place between 31 July and 10 November 1917. During this period an extreme amount of rainfall and artillery fire made the battlefield into a muddy swamp which was almost impossible to march across. Many of the Allied troops were killed with mustard gas and machine gun fire. The Canadians eventually took the village of Passchendaele after months of fighting, but the Allies had only gained 8km. The total number of casualties is not known but was likely to have been in the region of 250,000 soldiers on each side

Edward Cox was one of these. He was killed in action on 21 October 1917. He had been in France for one year, nine months and was 35 years old. Edward is buried at La Clytte Military Cemetery in Belgium, (grave reference 111.E.20).

He was awarded the British War and Allied Victory Medals.

### Sources:

*1891, 1901 and 1911 Censuses*

*Marriage certificate of Edward Cox and Minnie Johnson - 1 August 1901*

*Record of Service in the Great War (1914 -1918) by members of the Council's staff published by London County Council 1922*    *Commonwealth War Graves Commission*

*National Archives medal card*

### **Frederick William Cox**

Frederick William Cox was born in Runwell in 1889, the only son of William and Emily Cox. The 1901 Census shows the small family living at Ralph's Farm, Old Barn Lane, East Hanningfield. William was employed as a horseman on a farm. He had come originally from West Hanningfield and his wife, Emily came from Rettendon.

By 1911 William and Emily had moved to Frenches Farm Cottages, Rettendon Common but Frederick had left home and was lodging with Alfred and Eliza Bright at Deal Trees, Sandon where he was employed as a farm labourer.

At present no details can be found of Frederick's service record or date of death.

#### Sources:

*1901 and 1911 Censuses*

*Findmypast birth indexes*

### **Ernest William Daines**

Ernest Daines was born in 1879 in Butts Green, Sandon. The 1891 Census shows him living with his grandparents Thomas Daines, an agricultural labourer and his wife Jane at 15 Butts Green Road, Sandon.

In 1903 Ernest married Adelaide Annie Saffell. By the time of the 1911 Census they were living in Church Road, East Hanningfield (now Old Church Road) with their four children – one daughter and three sons.

Adelaide's younger brother Ernest Saffell was also killed in the Great War and his name is also on the East Hanningfield War Memorial.

Ernest joined the Royal Engineers (service no. 500441) and was in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Indian Army Corps Signal Company with the rank of Shoeing Smith. He went with his Company to Mesopotamia, where the Allies were fighting against the forces of the Ottoman Empire, who were allied to Germany. The Allies feared that the Ottomans might attack Middle Eastern oil fields on which they depended and threaten access to India via the Suez Canal.

Ernest died on 15 July 1917 aged 37, four months after the fall of Baghdad to the Allies. He is buried in the Baghdad (North Gate) War Cemetery, (grave reference XV.D.10).

Ernest was awarded the British War and Allied Victory Medals.

#### Sources:

*Derek Saffell*

*1891 and 1911 Census*

*Findmypast marriage indexes 1903*

*Commonwealth War Graves Commission*

*National Archives medal card*



## **Frederick Thomas Doe**

Frederick Doe was born in 1892 in East Hanningfield. In 1901 the Census shows him, aged 9, living with his mother Mary Ann and his stepfather William Morgan at Canon Barns, East Hanningfield. (Canon Barns is just east of the old A130). Also present were his three older brother and two older sisters all of whom were born in Little Dunmow, so it appears that the family moved to East Hanningfield not long before Frederick was born.

By 1911 Frederick was still living at Canon Barns with his mother and step-father and was working as a farm labourer, although later he joined the Great Eastern Railway.

Frederick initially joined the Essex Regiment (Service no. 2785) as a Private however he was transferred to the Machine Gun Corps (Infantry) battalion 95<sup>th</sup> company (no. 19254). He was killed in action aged 24 on 6 September 1916 during the battle of the Somme. He is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial (Pier and Face 5C and 12C) near Picardy, France. The memorial is for those who died in the battle with no known grave.

The following obituary to Frederick appeared in the Southend Standard on 16 November 1916:

‘Doe, Frederick Thomas – Private, No 19254, Machine Gun Corp (Inf).

Private Doe lived at East Hanningfield and was employed by the Great Eastern Railway at Wickford. He was a member of the Salvation Army attached to the Rettendon Corps, in which he was a bandsman. He enlisted in the Essex Regiment (No. 2785) at Chelmsford on 3 September 1914 and went abroad on 30 May 1915, attached to the machine gun section. He was subsequently transferred to the Machine Gun Corp, and was killed in action in France on 6 September 1916 aged 24. A memorial service was held for him by the Salvation Army at Rettendon.’

Frederick was awarded the 1914/15 Star and the British War and Allied Victory Medals.

### Sources:

*1901 and 1911 Censuses*

*Commonwealth War Graves Commission*

*Southend Standard 16 November 1916*

[www.roll-of-honour/EastHanningfield](http://www.roll-of-honour/EastHanningfield)

*Essex Regiment Museum*

*National Archives medal card*



## **Charles Henry Eaton**

Charles Eaton was born in East Hanningfield in 1895 and baptised on 6 October that year in East Hanningfield church. He was the second son of William Eaton, a carpenter and his wife Louisa. The 1901 Census shows William and Louisa living on the Tye, East Hanningfield with their family of eight children – three boys and five girls.

Charles signed up with the Essex Regiment with the rank of Drummer, for 12 years' service at Warley on 29 January 1910 (Service no. 9424). Aged just 14 he was 4ft 11inches tall with a 29 inch chest expanding to 31 inches. He had a fresh complexion with hazel eyes and brown hair.

By 1911 Charles was serving with his Battalion at Ballysax, The Curragh, County Kildare in Ireland.

Charles served with the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force from 23 March 1915 as a Lance Corporal. He landed in the Dardanelles on 25 April 1915 on the first day of the Gallipoli campaign but on 29 April he received a gunshot wound to his chest. His name appears under Essex Infantry casualties reported in the Essex Newsman on 22 May 1915. Subsequently he was discharged at Warley as no longer physically fit for war service on 8 May 1916.

Charles died aged 21 at Southern General Hospital Stourbridge Section on 29 January 1917. He is buried at Enfield (Lavender Hill) cemetery (grave reference C.B.2097). His mother had moved from East Hanningfield to Enfield following his father's death.

Charles was awarded the Silver War Badge for invalided soldiers, the 1914/15 Star and the British War and Allied Victory Medals.

Charles' elder brother, William, is also commemorated on the East Hanningfield War memorial.

### Sources:

*1901 Census*

*Essex Newsman 22 May 1915*

*Commonwealth War Graves Commission.*

*Essex Regiment Museum*

*Note: there is a photograph showing members of The Drums on page 10.*



THE DRUMS.

Back Row: Pte. Byrne, Eaton, Dr. Middleton, Wallace, Pte. Ward, Holden, Warner, Hollowbread, Dr. Collins  
 2nd Row: Dr. Rush, Pte. Chapman, Dr. Bardwell, Pte. Merry, Beard, Lee-Cpl. Abbott, Lee-Cpl. Webb, Pte. Parmenter, Dr. Stevens, Lee-Cpl. Merritt,  
 1st Row: Sgt.-Dr. Fowles, Dr. Parsons, Wilson, Cpl. Bailey, Cpt. & Adj. A. Sinclair-Thomson, Col. H. Broadmead, Dr. McDonald, Flynn, Wright, Pte. Moss.

## **William James Eaton**

William Eaton was born in East Hanningfield in 1892. He was the eldest son of William Eaton, a carpenter and his wife Louisa. The 1901 Census shows William and Louisa living on the Tye, East Hanningfield with their family of eight children – three boys and five girls.

William enlisted as a Private with the Essex Regiment 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, D Company at Warley (Service no. 9034) on 20 July 1909. In 1911 he was in India with B Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion at Quetta, Beluchistan.

William was also part of the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force in Gallipoli. The campaign in Gallipoli was fought by Commonwealth and French troops in an attempt to force Turkey out of the war, to relieve the deadlock of the Western Front in France and Belgium and to open a supply route to Russia through the Dardanelles and the Black Sea. The Allies landed on the Gallipoli peninsula on 25/26 April 1915. William was killed on the first day, 25 April, aged 23.

His name is on the Helles Memorial in Turkey which is a battle memorial for the whole of the Gallipoli campaign and a place of commemoration for those servicemen who died there and have no known grave.

William was awarded the 1914/15 Star and the British War and Allied Victory Medals.

William's younger brother, Charles is also commemorated on the East Hanningfield War memorial.

### Sources:

*1901 Census*

*Commonwealth War Graves Commission*

*Essex Regiment Museum*

## **Ernest Holtom**

Ernest Holtom was born in 1885 in Barnsbury, Islington, North London the eldest son of Thomas and Lavinia Holtom. What brought the family to Essex is not known, but by 1901 Thomas and Lavinia, together with Ernest and a younger son, Edwin, were living in Rettendon. Thomas was a house painter.

In 1907, aged 22, Ernest married Alice Mary Harvey. By the time of the 1911 Census they were living in Back Lane, East Hanningfield with their two children, William and Charles, and Ernest was working as a farm labourer. Ernest's parents were also living in Back Lane by this time. By 1916 Alice and her children were living on the Tye.

Ernest enlisted in London with the Middlesex Regiment in August 1914 and was a member of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion (Service no. L/9403). He was killed, aged 31 on 1 July 1916 during the first day of the Battle of the Somme. This was the bloodiest day in the history of the British Army when 57,470 men became casualties, of whom 19,240 were killed or died of wounds.

Ernest is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial (Pier and Face 12D and 13B) near Picardy, France. The memorial is for those who died in the battle with no known grave.

### Sources:

*1901 and 1911 Censuses*

*Findmypast Marriage indexes*

*Findmypast Soldiers died in the Great War*

*Commonwealth War Graves Commission*

## Horace James Horton

Horace Horton was born in 1898 in Hackney Union Workhouse, London. By the time of the 1901 Census he was living with William and Mary Ann Morgan at Canon Barns, East Hanningfield, and was described as a 'nurse child'. Workhouse infants were often sent out to rural areas to be looked after in families and this is what seems to have happened to Horace. In the same household was Frederick Doe, Mary Ann Morgan's son, who is also commemorated on the East Hanningfield War Memorial. (Canon Barns is just east of the old A130).

The arrangement for Horace with the Morgans clearly worked, because in the 1911 Census Horace is still shown as living with them at the same address. At this point, aged 13, he was still at school.

The next mention to be found of Horace occurs in the Essex Newsman for 3 March 1917. He was recorded, aged 18, as a horseman employed by Mr J E Smith of East Hanningfield who had applied to the authorities for Horace's exemption from conscription for military service on the grounds that he was needed to support food production on the farm. This was at the point in the war when Germany was blockading Britain and attacking merchant ships bringing in food supplies, so home food production was very important. However, Horace's application for exemption was refused.

Horace was enlisted at Chelmsford in the Royal Field Artillery, 504<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 65<sup>th</sup> Brigade (Service no. 238127) and held the rank of Gunner.

On the night of the 27/28 September 1918 Horace's Brigade moved up to forward positions near the town of Villeret in the Somme region. At 5.30am on 29 September they began an attack on enemy lines which lasted all that day and all the following night. Horace was killed in action at some point on 29 September. He was aged 20 and it was less than 2 months before the end of World War 1. He is buried in the nearby Roisel Communal Cemetery Extension (grave reference I.H.18).

Horace was awarded the British War and Allied Victory Medals.

### Sources:

*1901 and 1911 Censuses*

*Essex Newsman 3 March 1917*

*Findmypast: Soldiers died in the Great War*

*Royal Artillery Archives 65<sup>th</sup> Brigade War diaries*

*Commonwealth War Graves Commission*

*National Archives medal card*

## Charles Johnson

Charles Johnson was born in 1898 at Salcott-cum-Virley, near Tollesbury, Essex. He was the sixth of the eight children of George Johnson, a horseman and his wife Jessie. In 1901 the family were living in Woodham Mortimer, but by 1911 they had moved to a cottage near to the school in East Hanningfield.

Charles enlisted as a Private with the Essex Regiment, 9<sup>th</sup> battalion, B Company in Chelmsford (service no 12124). He was killed in action, aged 18, on 3 July 1916, the third day of the Battle of the Somme during the attack on the German held villages of Ovillers and La Boisselle.

Charles is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial (Pier and Face 10D) near Picardy, France. The memorial is for those who died in the battle with no known grave. His name also appears on the Rettendon Village War Memorial and the Ramsden Bellhouse Roll of Honour.

Charles was awarded the 1914/15 Star and the British War and Allied Victory Medals.

### Sources:

*1901 and 1911 Censuses*

*Findmypast: Soldiers died in the Great War*

*Commonwealth War Graves Commission*

*Essex Regiment Museum*



## Frederick William King

Frederick King was born in 1876 in Woodham Walter. He was the eldest son of Arthur King, an agricultural labourer and his wife Ellen. In 1881 the King family were living near the church at Ulting, but by 1891 they had moved to Marshes Cottages, Hall Road, Tolleshunt Major.

The first record of Frederick in East Hanningfield is in 1901 when the Census shows him living in Church Road as a boarder with Samuel and Eliza Lord and their daughter Jane. He was employed as a horseman on a farm. At the time Frederick was 25 and Jane was 22 and it appears that love blossomed because later that year they were married. By the time of the 1911 Census they were living in Back Lane with one daughter, May, aged 8.

Frederick joined the Lincolnshire Regiment as a Private (Service no. 7334) but later transferred to the Labour Corps, 667<sup>th</sup> Company (service no 584426). He must have died because of wounds sustained during the war, because the date of his death was 13 March 1919 after the war had ended.

Frederick is buried in the north east part of East Hanningfield churchyard (plot 186).



### Sources:

*1881, 1891, 1901 and 1911 Censuses*

*Findmypast Marriage register index*

*Commonwealth War Graves*

*Essex Society for Family History record of graves in East Hanningfield churchyard*



## Maurice Edward Linnett

Maurice Linnett was born on 31 March 1894 in East Hanningfield. He was the fourth son and fifth child of Charles Haddon Linnett, a thatcher, and his wife Emma. The Linnetts went on to have a large family of ten children (4 boys and 6 girls).

In 1901 the Census shows the Linnett family living on The Common, East Hanningfield. Maurice joined the Royal Navy aged 15 in 1909. At the time of the 1911 Census he was at HM Royal Naval Training Establishment at Shotley, Suffolk (Service no. J.8090).

He is shown in the photograph seated. Sadly, the identity of the soldier is unknown.

Maurice fought at, and survived, the Battle of Jutland in May 1916. However he was killed at the sinking of HMS Vanguard on 9 July 1917.

Just before midnight on 9 July 1917 at Scapa Flow, *Vanguard* suffered an explosion, probably caused by an unnoticed stokehold fire heating cordite stored against an adjacent bulkhead in one of the two magazines which served the amidships gun turrets 'P' and 'Q'. She sank almost instantly, killing an estimated 804 men; there were only two survivors. In terms of loss of life, the destruction of the *Vanguard* remains the most catastrophic accidental explosion in the history of the UK, and one of the worst accidental losses of the Royal Navy.

On 27 July 1917 the Chelmsford Chronicle reported 'Leading Seaman Maurice Edward Linnett who was killed in the sinking of HMS Vanguard was 23 years of age and the fourth son of Mr and Mrs C Linnett of East Hanningfield. He had served in the Navy 8 years and was in action in the Jutland Battle'.

Maurice is commemorated on the Chatham Naval Memorial, panel reference 21. The wreck of HMS Vanguard in Scapa Flow is a designated war grave under the Protection of Military Remains Act 1986.

### Sources:

*1901 and 1911 Censuses*

*Chelmsford Chronicle 27 July 1917*

*Wikipedia: HMS Vanguard*

*Commonwealth War Graves Commission*



## **(Harry) Lawrence Picking**

Lawrence Picking was born in East Hanningfield in 1898 and was third of the five children of Harry Picking and his wife Emily. Harry Picking senior was the Head of the Elementary School in East Hanningfield between 1893 and 1920 and also the organist at All Saints' Church.

The 1901 Census shows the family living at the School House, East Hanningfield but by 1911 the family had moved to Botley House, The Common.

Lawrence enlisted in 1915 as a Private in Colchester with the Royal Fusiliers, City of London Regiment, 20<sup>th</sup> Battalion (Service no. 8202). After nine months active service in France he went missing in action aged 18 on 20 July 1916 during the Battle of the Somme.

On 19 August 1916 the Essex Newsman reported 'Pt H Lawrence Picking, Royal Fusiliers (Public Schools) son of Mr and Mrs H Picking of Botley House, East Hanningfield, has been posted as missing since July 18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>. He is now only just 18 years of age and has been in continuous fighting since November 13<sup>th</sup> 1915. He would not wait for his commission, and enlisted on 9 August 1915. Thanks to the splendid training as a cadet in the Chelmsford Grammar School Corps, he passed almost directly into a Service Battalion. He is well remembered as the school captain. If anyone can relieve his parents' great anxiety by giving them any information as to when he was last seen, they would indeed be thankful. He would be noticeable on account of his great height 6ft 7in. Mr and Mrs Picking's eldest son (also an Old Chelmsfordian) is progressing favourably, but the doctor will not let him return to the front yet'

On 1 June 1917 the Chelmsford Chronicle carried the following: 'Mr Harry Picking of East Hanningfield has received notification that it must now be presumed that his son, Harry Lawrence Picking, Royal Fusiliers missing since July last, has been killed.'

Lawrence is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial (Pier and Face 8C 9A and 16A) near Picardy, France. The memorial is for those who died in the Battle of the Somme with no known grave. He is also remembered on his father's gravestone in All Saints' Churchyard (Plot 116).

Lawrence was awarded the 1914/15 Star and the British War and Allied Victory Medals.

### Sources:

*1901 and 1911 Censuses*

*Essex Newsman 19 August 1916*

*Chelmsford Chronicle 26 February 1915 and 1 June 1917*

*Commonwealth War Graves Commission*

*Essex Society for Family History record of graves in East Hanningfield churchyard*

*National Archives medal card*

## **Ernest Charles Saffill**

Ernest Saffill (Saffell or Saville, the name appears to have been spelt various ways) was born in East Hanningfield in 1893. He was the seventh of the fifteen children (six boys and nine girls) of James and Mary Annie Saville. James was at various times both a farm and a builder's labourer.

In 1901 the family were living at Butts Green, Sandon. By 1911 they had moved to White Cottage Farm, Woodham Ferrers but by 1916 they were living at Peacocks Cottages, Creephedge Lane, East Hanningfield.

Ernest joined the Essex Regiment 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion as a Private (Service no. 12137). On 19 August 1916 the Essex Newsman reported that 'Pt Ernest Saville has been killed'. The date of his death was 12 August 1916, six weeks in to the Battle of the Somme. He was 23.

Ernest is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial (Pier and Face 10D) near Picardy, France. The memorial is for those who died in the Battle of the Somme with no known grave.

Ernest's eldest sister, Adelaide was married to Ernest Daines whose name also appears on the East Hanningfield War Memorial.

### Sources:

*1901 and 1911 Censuses*

*Essex Newsman*

*Findmypast: Soldiers died in the Great War*

*Commonwealth War Graves Commission*

*Derek Saffell*

## **Herbert Ernest Thorogood**

Herbert Thorogood was born in Cold Norton in 1883. He was the third son of Henry and MaryAnn Thorogood and the fourth of their seven children.

In 1891 the family were living in Bicknacre where Henry was a thatcher and hay binder, however by 1901 they were living at the Common Farm, East Hanningfield, with Henry described as a farmer and Herbert and his brother Alfred working on the farm.

In 1913 aged 30 Herbert married Ada Elizabeth Carter. They went on to have three sons, Alfred, Stanley and Ronald, the latter being born after Herbert's death in 1917. At the time of his death Herbert's wife Ada was living at the Bungalow, East Hanningfield.

Herbert joined the Norfolk Regiment, 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion (Service no. 25542) and died on 28 April 1917. He is commemorated on the Arras Memorial, Arras, Pas de Calais. The Memorial remembers almost 35,000 servicemen from the United Kingdom, South Africa and New Zealand who died in the Arras sector between the spring of 1916 and August 1918, and have no known grave. One of the most conspicuous events of this period was the Arras offensive of April-May 1917, during which Herbert died.

### Sources:

*1891 and 1901 Censuses*

*Findmypast Marriage indexes*

*Findmypast: Soldiers died in the Great War*

*Commonwealth War Graves Commission*

## Charles Wilkinson

Charles Wilkinson was born in Glasgow in 1889 and was the third son of Charles and Isabella Wilkinson. The Wilkinson family lived at Glenisla Park, East Hanningfield, which was the name they gave during their time there to Rough Hill Park Farm on the Tye.

Charles Wilkinson, senior had formerly been a wine and whisky merchant and in 1891 he and his young family were living in Barony, north Glasgow. However towards the end of the 1890s they moved south to London and in 1901 Charles senior, Isabella and their six children were living at 33 Silverdale, Sydenham. In the early 1900s Charles Wilkinson, senior, purchased Rough Hill Park Farm, East Hanningfield and by the time of the 1911 Census he described himself as a farmer, so presumably he had retired as a wine and whisky merchant.

By 1911 Charles Wilkinson, junior was no longer resident in East Hanningfield. He and two of his brothers, William and Albert, were lodging with Sarah Jane Ashby a widow and her son Frank in Ilford. At this time Charles, aged 22, was recorded as being a Solicitor's Articled Clerk.

Charles joined the Royal Field Artillery and left for France with 176 Brigade on 9 January 1916. The following year on 21 January 1917 he was transferred to 236 Brigade which was then engaged in the fighting around Ypres.

For 7 June 1917, still at Ypres, the Brigade war diary reads: 'Much heavy shelling along the whole front during the night. Batteries of the Group retaliated at 1.30am, 2.15am and 2.25am...Meeting of Battery Commanders. Each Battery allotted one position to work on and stock with large ammunition dumps with a view to forthcoming operations.' It was on this day that Charles carried out the actions that earned him the Military Cross.

On 27 July 1917 the Chelmsford Chronicle reported: 'Sec Lieut Chas Wilkinson, RFA, son of Mr Charles Wilkinson of East Hanningfield, has been awarded the Military Cross for bravery on the field. Lieut Wilkinson, who is one of four brothers serving, is a well-known football player, and has assisted Chelmsford Town. In civil life he is a solicitor at Leicester.

On 31 August 1917 the Chelmsford Chronicle reported: 'The deed for which Sec Lieut Charles Wilkinson, RFA was awarded the Military Cross appeared in the *London Gazette* published on Monday as follows: "For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. During a heavy shelling of his battery, he worked for half an hour to extinguish a burning ammunition dump, finally succeeding in his efforts and averting what would have been a serious explosion, involving the loss of two guns and ammunition"'

On 6 March 1918 Charles returned on leave to the UK and on 23 March he married Ethel Agnes Denton in All Saints' Church, East Hanningfield. The Chelmsford Chronicle carried a report on the wedding on 29 March: 'East Hanningfield wedding. Lieut Charles Wilkinson, RFA, son of Mr Charles Wilkinson of Glenisla Park, East Hanningfield was married by Rev John Stewart to Miss Ethel Denton of Leicester on Saturday by special licence. Owing to the war, the ceremony was very quietly observed. Lieut Wilkinson won the Military Cross, and is now to join the Royal Flying Corp.'

Charles returned to France on 27 June 1918, but this time with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Squadron of the RAF.

However only five months later, and just days after the end of the war, Charles died on 21 November 1918 aged 29. He was buried in East Hanningfield churchyard, in the same grave (no. 188) as his brother William, on 25 November. In the parish register of burials is a note, written by Rev'd John Stewart, the rector saying that Charles died of pneumonia following influenza. It is likely that he was one of the victims of the Spanish Flu which occurred during the winter of 1918 and is thought to have caused up to 50 million deaths worldwide.

In addition to the Military Cross Charles was awarded the British War and Allied Victory Medals.

#### Sources:

*1891, 1901 and 1911 Censuses*

*Chelmsford Chronicle 27 July and 31 August 1917 and 29 March 1918*

*Mr Richard Seymour – extracts from his history of Rough Hill Park Farm*

*National Archives medal card*

*Royal Artillery Archives 236 Brigade war diaries*

## **William Charles Wilkinson**

William Charles Wilkinson was born in Coupar Angus, Perthshire in 1882 and was the eldest child of Charles and Isabella Wilkinson. The Wilkinson family lived at Glenisla Park, East Hanningfield, which was the name they gave during their time there to Rough Hill Park Farm on the Tye.

William's father, Charles Wilkinson had formerly been a wine and whisky merchant and in 1891 he and his young family were living in Barony, north Glasgow. However towards the end of the 1890s they moved south to London and in 1901 Charles, Isabella and their six children were living at 33 Silverdale, Sydenham. In the early 1900s he purchased Rough Hill Park Farm, East Hanningfield and by the time of the 1911 Census he described himself as a farmer, so presumably he had retired as a wine and whisky merchant.

By 1911 William Wilkinson was no longer resident in East Hanningfield. He and two of his brothers, Charles and Albert were lodging with Sarah Jane Ashby a widow and her son Frank in Ilford. At this time William, aged 28, was recorded as being a managing clerk to a whisky merchant.

In 1915 William married Jane Adam and they settled in Golders Green, north London, with a son Leslie being born the following year.

William enlisted as a Private with the Gordon Highlanders, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion in Hendon, north London (Service no. S/14808). He died, aged 35, on 6 June 1918 and was buried on 11 June in East Hanningfield churchyard (grave no. 188). The entry in the parish register of burials includes a note written by Rev'd John Stewart, the rector, 'Died of wounds in the 2<sup>nd</sup> London Hospital. Badly gassed, the hospital in France in which he was lying was bombed by German aeroplanes and he was badly wounded.'

William was awarded the British War and Allied Victory Medals.

### Sources:

*1891, 1901 and 1911 Censuses*

*Findmypast: Marriage and birth indexes*

*Mr Richard Seymour – extracts from his history of Rough Hill Park Farm*

*Probatesearchservice.gov.uk*

*National Archives medal card*



## Edward Harknett

Edward Harknett's name does not appear on the East Hanningfield War Memorial. However he is commemorated on the grave of his father George Harknett in the churchyard (plot 103).

Edward was born in Gilston near Harlow in 1898, the oldest child of George and Helen Harknett. In the 1911 Census the family including Edward and his younger sister Irene and brother George were living in Church Street, Great Chesterford. George Harknett senior was working as a domestic gardener, whilst Edward then 13 had left school and was an errand boy.

Edward enlisted with the 11<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Suffolk Regiment at Cambridge in September 1914 (Service no. 14435). The Battalion was sent to France in January 1916.

On Friday 11 August 1916 the Essex Chronicle reported 'Mr G Harknett of the Vicarage Lodge, Great Chesterford, is informed that his son Pt Edward Harknett, was killed in action. He joined the Cambridgeshire Battalion of the Suffolk Regt in September 1914 when only 16 years of age'.

Edward was killed, aged 19, on 1 July 1916 during the first day of the Battle of the Somme. This was the bloodiest day in the history of the British Army when 57, 470 men became casualties, of whom 19,240 were killed or died of wounds.

Edward is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial (Pier and Face 1C and 2A) near Picardy, France. The memorial is for those who died in the battle with no known grave.

Edward was awarded the British War and Allied Victory Medals.

### Sources:

*1901 and 1911 Censuses*

*Findmypast Soldiers died in the Great War*

*Commonwealth War Grave Commission*

*Chelmsford Chronicle 11 August 1916*

*Essex Society for Family History record of graves in East Hanningfield churchyard*

*National Archives medal card*

## WORLD WAR II

### William Henry Allen

William Allen was born on 25 December 1917, the second son of David Allan and Annie Allan (nee Saffill) of East Hanningfield. In the 1911 Census David Allen is recorded as a labourer on a farm. He married Annie on 26 December 1914. In 1931 when William was 18 his mother Annie died. His father later remarried in 1936 Beatrice Saffill, Annie's younger sister.

In 1940 William married Alice Florence Watkins and they also settled in East Hanningfield.



During World War II William joined the 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Suffolk Regiment (Service no. 6020729). The 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion was posted to Singapore on the entry of Japan into the War. They fought gallantly in the battle for Singapore, but were mostly made prisoners of war and found themselves constructing the infamous Burma railway where an estimated 13,000 POWs lost their lives due to the inhuman treatment they received. William died on 30 January 1944.

William is buried in Chungkai War Cemetery in Thailand (grave reference 9.M.13). Chungkai was one of the base camps on the Burma railway and contained a hospital and a church built by the Allied POWs. The war cemetery is the original burial ground started by the prisoners themselves, and the burials are mostly of men who died at the hospital.

On Friday 20 December 1946 the Chelmsford Chronicle contained the following in its In Memoriam column 'Allen- in loving memory of my dear brother, William Allen, Suffolk Regt on his birthday 25 December, who passed to his rest while a prisoner of war in the Far East 30 January 1944. Sadly missed by his loving brother Ern and family, East Hanningfield'.

William is also commemorated on the grave of his parents in East Hanningfield churchyard (grave reference 112).

#### Sources:

*Findmypast birth and marriage indexes*

*Eric Lummis: The History of the Suffolk Regiment*

*Commonwealth War Graves Commission*

*Chelmsford Chronicle 20 December 1946*

*Essex Society for Family History record of graves in East Hanningfield churchyard*

## **George Victor Byam**

George Byam was the son of George and Emma Byam and was born in 1918. George and Emma, who married in 1916, went on to have another son, Alfred in 1920 but, sadly Emma died in 1924. George senior remarried in 1928, Eleanor Bouttell.

Although the family did not originate in East Hanningfield they seem to have been living in the area by 1920. At the time of Eleanor Byam's death in 1941 they were living at 9 The Council Houses, Pan Lane (now Old Church Road).

George junior enlisted as a Private in the Essex Regiment 1/4<sup>th</sup> Battalion (Service no. 6013784) on 15 November 1939.

George was with the Essex Regiment in North Africa and was reported missing on 28 June 1942 when the British Army was in headlong retreat from the German Afrika Corps just prior to the battle of El Alamein. On 13 November 1942 the Chelmsford Chronicle reported that he had been listed as a prisoner war. He was transferred to a prisoner of war camp in Italy. However George was killed attempting to escape on 23 November 1943, aged 25. He is buried in the Florence War Cemetery (grave reference V.J.2)

### Sources:

*Findmypast Birth and marriage indexes*

*Chelmsford Chronicle 18 July 1941 and 13 November 1942*

*Commonwealth War Graves Commission*

*Essex Regiment Museum*

## **Ernest Arthur Mayhew**

Ernest Mayhew was the eldest child of William and Jessie Mayhew. William and Jessie married at Middleton near Saxmundham, Suffolk in 1912 and Ernest was born the following year. They went on to have a further 8 children, moving to Rettendon Common in about 1920 where William was employed as an agricultural labourer.

Ernest enlisted as a Bombadier in the Royal Artillery 28<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment (service number 6008022). His Regiment was posted to North Africa and took part in the campaign by the British Eighth Army to defeat the Germans and Italians under General Rommell which culminated in the latters' surrender on 13 May 1943. Ernest died in North Africa on 17 September 1943, presumably of wounds sustained during the campaign. He is buried in the Tripoli War Cemetery (grave reference 5.A.8).

### Sources:

*Findmypast Birth and marriage indexes*

*Commonwealth War Graves Commission*

## Alfred Benjamin Thorogood

Ben Thorogood's name is not on the East Hanningfield War Memorial but he is commemorated on the grave of his father (no. 131) in the churchyard. A tablet on the grave reads 'In loving memory of my dear husband Ben Thorogood, died of wounds in Normandy July 27<sup>th</sup> 1944 aged 30.

Ben's parents were Alfred and Edith Thorogood. They married in 1910 and Ben was born in 1913. They lived at Lodge Road, Woodham Ferrers but the family evidently had links with East Hanningfield as Alfred was buried at All Saints' in 1930.



At first Ben worked as a bricklayer but he joined the army in 1935 (Service no. 555105). Initially he was in the Hussars but was later transferred to the Royal Armoured Corps, C Squadron, Inns of Court Regiment. At the outbreak of World War II he was in France and was evacuated from Dunkirk in 1940. In 1941 he married Margaret Coles who came from Finedon in Northamptonshire.

In June 1944 the Royal Armoured Corps returned to France as part of the Allies' Normandy campaign. As the churchyard commemoration says Ben died of wounds in Normandy on 27 July 1944. He is buried in the Bayeux War Cemetery, (grave reference III.H.20).

### Sources:

*Findmypast marriage indexes*

*Essex Chronicle 1 March 1935 and 11 August 1944*

*Commonwealth War Graves Commission*

## East Hanningfield Roll of Honour

The Roll of Honour may be found inside All Saints' Church. It records all those from the village who served their country in the First World War, both those who survived and those who died. Many of those who returned home at the end of the war were wounded both physically and mentally. Some may have died prematurely as a result.

### Navy

Owen Challis	Edward Kemble	Edward Stitch
Percy Hawkes	Maurice Linnett	Sidney Stitch

### Army

George Ager	Alfred Eaton	Antoine Sacré
John Ager	Leonard Eaton	Aynsley Sacré
David Allen	Thomas Eaton	Gerald Sacré
Cyril C de V Andersson	Arthur Fairchild	Lester Sacré
Edward Bailey	John Fairchild	A Henry Saville
William G Balls	Graham Gardiner	Arthur Saville
Harry Bambridge	Frederick Harvey	Ernest Saville
Edward Bambridge	George Harvey	James Saville
Herbert Bambridge	Reginald Harvey	John Saville
Gerald Barclay	Ernest Holtom	Thomas W Saville
B J Bedwell	Walter Hills	Willaim Saville
Harry Chapman	Charles Johnson	Carrington Sykes
George Coe	Harry Johnson	H E Thorogood
Walter Coe	Frederick King	Albert Tucker
William Coe	Frederick Lindsell	George Tucker
Frederick Cox	William Lindsell	Walter Whalley
Edward Cox	Sidney Linnett	William Wood
Henry Cox	Frederick Picking	Arthur Woolford
Henry Crowe	Lawrence Picking	Frederick Woolford
Ernest Daines	Charles W Potter	James Woolford
Charles Doe	Cyril Potter	Stanley Woolford
Frederick Doe	W C F Poulson	Thomas Woolford
Frederick Eaton	The Rector (A J Sacré)	

## For The Fallen

With proud thanksgiving, a mother for her children,  
England mourns for her dead across the sea.  
Flesh of her flesh they were, spirit of her spirit,  
Fallen in the cause of the free.

Solemn the drums thrill; Death august and royal  
Sings sorrow up into immortal spheres,  
There is music in the midst of desolation  
And a glory that shines upon our tears.

They went with songs to the battle, they were young,  
Straight of limb, true of eye, steady and aglow.  
They were staunch to the end against odds uncounted;  
They fell with their faces to the foe.

**They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:  
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.  
At the going down of the sun and in the morning  
We will remember them.**

They mingle not with their laughing comrades again;  
They sit no more at familiar tables of home;  
They have no lot in our labour of the day-time;  
They sleep beyond England's foam.

But where our desires are and our hopes profound,  
Felt as a well-spring that is hidden from sight,  
To the innermost heart of their own land they are known  
As the stars are known to the Night;

As the stars that shall be bright when we are dust,  
Moving in marches upon the heavenly plain;  
As the stars that are starry in the time of our darkness,  
To the end, to the end, they remain.

*Laurence Binyon*